

IN MEMORIAM.

WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK, M.D., LL.D.

BY THADDEUS A. REAMY, M.D.,
Cincinnati.

SINCE our last meeting three distinguished Fellows have fallen. Two of them were veterans ; the third had just reached that age when he would have been in the zenith of his manhood. Of Parvin and Wilson others have spoken ; my humble testimonial is to Lusk.¹

William Thompson Lusk was born May 23, 1838, at Norwich, Conn., and died, probably of cerebral hemorrhage, June 12, 1897, at New York City. On both sides his ancestors were of the highest respectability. His father, Sylvester Graham Lusk, was born at Enfield, Conn., in 1805. He died at the early age of thirty-six years. The mother was, before marriage, Miss Elizabeth Freeman Adams, of Norwich, Conn. Her father was a native of Demerara ; her mother a native of French Guiana.

Young Lusk spent his boyhood days at Norwich. Here he attended the Rev. Albert Spooner's school. Later (1854) he went to New York City and, residing in the family of

¹ That which pertains to birth, boyhood, education, military service, and professional positions held by Dr. Lusk is taken almost literally from a memorial address delivered before the New York Academy of Medicine by Dr. Alexander Smith. Being assured of the entire accuracy of statements in this eloquent eulogy, I was glad in this way to reproduce so much of it as served my purpose.

Dr. Fordyce Barker, attended Anthon's grammar school in Murray Street.

In 1855 he was sent by his mother, his father having died, to New Haven, where he attended Russell's Military School. Subsequently he entered the freshman class at Yale. He remained, however, but one year, having to leave on account of eye-trouble. In 1872, by action of the corporation, he was enrolled with his class at Yale and received the honorary degree of A.M. In 1894 Yale conferred on him the degree of LL.D. In 1858 he went abroad, devoting himself earnestly to the study of physiology, chemistry, and medicine at Heidelberg, where he remained two years. He then studied in Berlin one year. In 1861, our Civil War having broken out, he returned to America to enter the army. Governor Buckingham, of Connecticut, tendered him a position on his personal staff. This was declined, that he might enter upon active service in the line. He enlisted as a private in the Seventy-ninth Highlanders, New York Volunteers. June, 1861, he participated in the first battle of Bull Run. During this action he carried his wounded captain off the field, exposing his own life to the greatest peril. The undaunted courage and devotion to duty here manifested was typical not only of his subsequent military career, but of his whole life. September 19, 1861, he was commissioned second lieutenant; February 24, 1862, commissioned captain; February 28, 1863, he resigned at the request of Governor Morgan, of New York, that he might take command of a regiment then recruiting. Before the regiment was full, however, he joined the staff of General Daniel Tyler, and was commissioned as assistant adjutant-general. In his official report of the battle of Jones Island, S. C., June, 1862, General Isaac Stevens commends Captain Lusk for bravery. Likewise he is commended for gallant and meritorious conduct in the field in the report of the battle of Antietam, September, 1862.

During his military service Captain Lusk participated in

the battles of Blackburn Ford, first Bull Run, Port Royal, Secessionville, second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Manassas, Fredericksburg. He saw his brave Seventy-Ninth Highlanders decimated from 1000 to 230 men. He had had two horses shot under him in battle, and on another occasion his belt was shot away. But he had come out of it all unscathed.

September 17, 1863, his troops having been sent into Delaware and placed on the inactive list, he resigned his commission. Here ends his military career, a record of heroic devotion to duty.

Returning to New York, he entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and was graduated with the class of 1864. He was valedictorian of his class. May, 1864, he again went abroad for study. He remained sixteen months. His time was divided with Sir James Simpson in Edinburgh, Carl Braun in Vienna, Seifert in Prague, and in Paris. Returning home in 1865, he settled for practice in Bridgeport, Conn., associated with Dr. Robert Hubbard. His stay was, however, brief. He went to New York in 1866 and associated himself with Dr. Fordyce Barker, whose wife was a relative. This association continued until 1873. In 1869 he was made professor of physiology and microscopical anatomy in the Long Island College Hospital. This position he held until 1871.

In 1870-71, at the request of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, he delivered a very successful course on physiology at Harvard Medical School, Boston. In 1872 he was elected to the chair of obstetrics and diseases of women and children in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, succeeding the late George T. Elliot. Soon after this appointment he was offered the chair of physiology at Harvard Medical School. This was declined. He held his professorship at Bellevue until his death.

The following are some of the Fellowships and positions held by Dr. Lusk : Obstetric surgeon to Bellevue Hospital ;

visiting physician to the Nursery and Child's Hospital ; president of the Faculty of Bellevue Hospital Medical College ; consulting physician to the Maternity Hospital and the Foundling Asylum ; consulting obstetrician to the Society of the Lying-in Hospital of the City of New York ; visiting obstetrician to the Emergency Hospital ; gynecological surgeon to St. Vincent's Hospital ; President of the American Gynecological Society ; Vice-president of the New York Obstetrical Society ; President of the New York State Medical Society ; Honorary President of the Obstetrical Section of the Berlin Medical Congress ; Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh and London Obstetrical Societies ; Corresponding Fellow of the Obstetrical Societies of Paris and Leipsic ; Corresponding Fellow of the Paris Academy of Medicine ; 1871 to 1873 he was co-editor, with Dr. James B. Hunter, of the *New York Medical Journal*.

Dr. Lusk's contributions to contemporaneous medical literature were numerous and of a very high order. He early established, and until his death maintained, a reputation as a writer always thoroughly informed on his subject, terse and lucid in style, and honest in his statement of facts. Whatever he wrote, therefore, attracted wide attention and commanded respect. His masterly paper before the International Congress at Philadelphia, 1876, on the "Causes and Prevention of Puerperal Fever" created in that body quite a sensation, eliciting able and earnest discussion. Statements of the paper were widely quoted at home and abroad. It was the fuller and more comprehensive statement of the doctrine which had been foreshadowed by Oliver Wendell Holmes thirty years before. Five years later (1881), in the first edition of his great work, *The Science and the Art of Obstetrics*, this subject receives even more elaborate and able treatment by Dr. Lusk than in the paper above referred to. In no book, either in America or in England, had the subject been treated so ably or so thoroughly discussed. It would now seem almost incredible that at a period so recent the

doctrine should have met with strong opposition from highly respectable quarters. But we turn to the book. It is conceded as the crowning work of its author's life. An honored Fellow of our Society, one of the ablest, most severe, as well as one of the most generous and fair critics, in reviewing the work, said: "The assiduous work of years, done by a man old enough to have seen much, intellectual enough to have adopted new views, he has enriched English literature by so valuable an addition." . . . "By far the most learned and most complete exposition of the science and art of obstetrics written in the English language." (Garrigues, in *Supplement to the American Journal of Obstetrics*, 1882.)

This book was the first in the English language to discuss the subject of obstetrics in the same thorough and scientific manner as had been done by the Germans. Dr. Lusk's thorough scientific training, especially his mastery of physiology, pathology, and chemistry, and then his prolonged studies with the masters in his preparation for writing the book, made his task comparatively easy. It is not difficult to see that he followed Speigelberg closely, but the book is in no sense a copy. It shows that its author had thoroughly mastered the teachings of that great man; that he believed in them; and that he possessed the judicial mind, the liberal and philosophic spirit which enabled him to incorporate these doctrines with products of his own rich experience, clinical observations, and reflection.

Some of the most striking and valuable features of the work are the outgrowth of Dr. Lusk's practical experience as an obstetrician, more especially in operative obstetrics. At the time of his death Dr Lusk had in preparation a fifth edition of the work. This had become quite necessary, for notwithstanding the fact that in the second edition the work was almost entirely rewritten, and in the third many ideas, rapidly becoming obsolete, eliminated, yet important advances within very recent date, more especially in chemistry and pathology, make a new edition of the work imperative.

It is to be hoped that some one will take up the revision cut short by death, and complete it, so that the book may continue to hold its high place as one of the very best published in the English language.

Dr. Lusk presented in the lecture-room distinctive personalities. He was not a fluent speaker. His manner was often that of diffidence, slight hesitation. But his diction was so faultless, his manifest knowledge of his subject so thorough, his methods so painstaking, his honesty so apparent, his enthusiasm so unbounded that he stood forth at once as a great teacher. From his didactic lectures or his clinics the best students were seldom absent.

As a physician he was conscientious, self-sacrificing, earnest, patient, skilful. He was a wise man, seldom in error. He was gentle as a child, his heart filled with sympathy and love, but under circumstances demanding it his will was absolute, his determination supreme, his courage like that of the lion. It followed that his patients had confidence in him, and at the same time loved him. The purity of his life and the steadfastness with which he devoted himself to the discharge of every duty devolving upon him, his fidelity to the sacred trust committed to his keeping made him a blessing to humanity, an uplifting influence in the community, a benediction to those with whom he was in daily contact. How exalted such a character, combining such personal qualities with the highest degree of scientific attainment and skill! Let not the criticism be made that too much space and time are here devoted to the man. Truth is never overstated. Certainly there is nothing in the life or office of the physician which can change or abrogate the sublime truth that the enduring beauty of a character is its moral excellence, in the contemplation and study of which there is inspiration and light.

Dr. Lusk was an accomplished and skilled obstetrician. He was highly valued by the profession of New York as a consultant. He was an eminent obstetric surgeon. By many

he was classed as conservative. His was the conservatism of knowledge, wisdom. He was ever conversant with the real advances ; but he did not consider that because a thing was new it must be true. In his own city he was beloved, honored, and respected by his colleagues, associates, and the entire medical profession. By his writings and teaching he has established throughout the world a name and reputation which will endure. He left " the science and the art " better than he found them. Undoubtedly his devotion of heart and soul to work caused him to refuse rest often when body and mind sorely needed it. But he died in harness. As his weakened hand dropped the implements of his craft he could still hear the sound of fellow-workmen upon the temple. He rested in the light, and heard a voice " the Light himself shall shine revealed, and God's eternal day be thine ! "

The subject of the foregoing sketch was twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1864, was Miss Mary Hartwell Chittenden, of Brooklyn. She died in 1871. Of this union there were born five children, one dying in infancy. Two sons and two daughters survive. One son, Graham, Professor of Physiology in the New York University and Bellevue Medical School, is already favorably known to the profession. Another son, William G., is a well-known young practising physician in New York City. The second marriage, which occurred in 1876, was to Mrs. Matilda Thorn (*née* Myer). She died in 1893. A daughter survives.

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IN MEMORIAM.¹ WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK,
M.D., LL.D.

BY HENRY C. COE, M.D., NEW YORK

SOON after we parted for the summer an honored Fellow of our Society suddenly passed into the unknown. Death has singularly spared our company during the past decade, but when he rudely summoned one of our noblest and best, we felt that the breaking up of our goodly fellowship had indeed begun. The pathetic cry of the Litany was not answered, but who can say that it was not best? His end was unostentatious, like his life. In the midst of restless activity, at the period of a well-rounded career, he went apart and fell asleep. To be spared the decay of mental and physical powers, to depart at the moment of victory — was not this the enviable lot of the father of the Olympian victor whom the ancient philosopher declared to be the happiest of men?

Others will utter more elaborate and fitting eulogies; be it our mournful, though pleasant, duty to offer a simple tribute to the memory of one who met with us here in the years that are gone, and whose gracious influence rests upon us as a benediction. I might speak eloquently of Dr. Lusk's international influence upon obstetric medicine, of his classical book, his numerous contributions to current literature, of the impress which he left upon his students — but here, among those who knew him best, we think of him rather as the kindly associate, the fine type of the physician and gentleman, which,

¹ Read before the New York Obstetrical Society, Oct. 19, 1897.

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pray Heaven, may never become wholly extinct in this age of fierce competition, when it sometimes seems as if our noble profession were in danger of degenerating into a trade.

Although it might seem more proper that one of his own contemporaries should perform this duty, there is a certain fitness in the tribute coming from us of a younger generation to whom he was at once teacher, example, and friend. If, in mystic faith of Swedenborg, the departed are still with us in spirit, sharing in our daily life, it would be most distasteful to him to hear words of fulsome flattery, who was himself so modest and retiring that, like the wise Athenian, he ever held that "he only knew that he knew nothing." I shall refer only to Dr. Lusk's relations to the Obstetrical Society. Our old volumes of Transactions furnish most interesting, nay even, inspiring reading. The list of founders far back in 1863 is a list of intellectual giants, of whom we may well be proud. To them Lusk was one of the young and rising men. Admitted to the Society in 1872, he was Vice-President the following year, and was elected President in 1879, when most of us were in college, or were just beginning the study of medicine. I have looked through all the transactions of the last quarter of a century and find abundant evidence of his mental activity and interest in the Society. His papers and clinical reports are marked by the same peculiarity, which was only accentuated in his later years—a disposition to publish unfavorable rather than successful results, when it seemed to him that they taught a valuable lesson.

Promptness in acknowledging errors in diagnosis and technique, a tendency to criticize himself more severely than others would criticize him, an earnest desire to point

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out the way by which his *confrères* could avoid his mistakes—this was the marked characteristic of all his public utterances. The modest, self-depreciating manner with which we were so familiar, increased with advancing age and experience. Quick to seize upon all that was good in new theories and surgical methods, he was preeminently conservative and allowed younger and bolder spirits to push ahead, while he waited and thoroughly tested the old ways before he abandoned them for the new. This mental attitude, which rendered him such a safe teacher, constituted him a sort of balance-wheel in many discussions in which advanced, or what then seemed heroic, methods were generally advocated. Whenever Lusk spoke, in his quiet, modest way, none of his hearers had any doubt that he was thoroughly in earnest, and that the sentiments which he expressed were those which influenced his daily work. So unobtrusive was his manner that even we who knew him so well often forgot that his words carried weight all over the world, and when uttered in foreign medical associations, were received as the dicta of a master. Thus has it ever been that “a prophet is not without honor save in his own country.”

We do not recall that Dr. Lusk ever sought to pose as an innovator, nor did he read a paper before this Society which advocated any new or startling procedure. He seemed to feel that his mission was to weigh carefully new facts and to compare them with the old, to warn against too sweeping generalizations, and the too ready adoption of radical methods. When he had occasion to introduce the personal pronoun it was always apologetically. His was the reverent agnosticism of true science. He had no sympathy with loud pretensions, nor did he seek to be “heard for his much speaking.” Of late years

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he came but rarely to our meetings, and then always because he felt that he had some special message to deliver.

It would be a great mistake to infer that because he was by nature, as well as by choice, conservative, Dr. Lusk was not fully abreast of modern surgery. I doubt if there is one here present who followed more closely the work of foreign operators, not in the library, but by actual attendance at their clinics. His active, restless mind was like a sensitive photographic plate, which needed only an instant's exposure to the light of truth in order to retain a lasting impression. He was keenly alive to all that was transpiring in the medical world, and you will remember the deep interest which he manifested in the work of his younger brethren in this city. If a new or especially difficult operation was to be performed, Lusk was sure to be on hand. Such a man might be called "conservative," but his conservatism was the outgrowth of wide observation and experience; it was not a voluntary mental stagnation, due to ignorance of the vast progress of modern surgery.

We recall with mournful tenderness the kindly attitude of our lost friend in public debate. He was ever considerate of his opponent's feelings — a gentleman in the original interpretation of the word, with a fine sense of the fitness of things and a never-failing courtesy that disarmed all irritation. How these traits are remembered now, when he, alas! is only a memory. The keen, eager, kindly face, the earnest air, the low voice, never raised in harsh answer or biting criticism—these, with the bright smile of welcome, the warm hand-clasp, all are gone forever.

"To lose him from our eager ken,
To lose his thoughts, to ripeness grown,
To lose his presence, are as when
A richly-freighted ship goes down."

As he was here, so we knew him in his work. He was too broad for petty rivalries and jealousies, too honest and consistent to swerve a hair's breadth from the straight course which he had marked out, either to win or to keep patients. If he thought that an operation was not indicated, no man, no financial consideration, could induce him to perform it. He might feel keenly the adverse criticism of his associates, but he adhered to his own standard of right. Professional honor was not an empty name to him, but an integral part of himself. Its influence pervaded his work in the consulting-room, at the hospital, wherever he came in contact with men and women.

From this Society he went out to practise what he preached. We sometimes disagreed with him; some of us thought, perhaps, that he was a little old-fashioned, but we honored him for his consistency and recognized in him a true Bayard, *sans peur et sans reproche*. It would be pleasant to review our social relations with Dr. Lusk, to recall the many delightful qualities which rendered him so beloved, but I believe that every man who has lost a friend cherishes some memory of the departed which is peculiarly his own, and which it is not fitting to subject to cold analysis. It was good for us to have been with him, for none touched him in the press of life ever so slightly without perceiving the aroma shed only by the pure in heart.

You remember the touching description of how the Doctor of the old school was borne to his last resting-place. "Surely no funeral is like unto that of a doctor for pathos,"

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we read: but in the last splendid tribute paid to our friend by his professional brethren one felt that through the requiem ran a strain of triumphal music. And in after years it will be said of him, as was said of the first Napoleon: "Something great and good must have been in this man, something loving and kindly, that has kept his name so cherished in the popular memory and gained him such lasting reverence and affection."

Sad indeed is the man who is remembered only for the books which he has written, the operations which he has performed, or the wealth which he has amassed during a long and successful professional career. But thrice happy he who, like our lost brother, leaves not only these evidences of a well-spent life, but a precious memory, cherished in the hearts of those made happier and better by his living. When we think of our illustrious dead our Society seems lifted to a higher plane. Surely we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. The superb Peaslee, the magnetic Sims, the genial Taylor, Barker's kingly presence, and now the gentle spirit which has been absorbed into the Eternal Light. What a rich heritage is ours! How great is our inspiration to carry on the work which they began, with the same enthusiasm, the same zeal for pure truth! Let us too see to it that no narrow personal aims, no petty dissensions prevent the fulfilment of this sacred duty. As, one by one, our elders turn aside to the wayside inn, let us cherish those who remain. They may seem old-fashioned or slow to adopt new ideas. But old fashions are often the best fashions, and many of our "new" ideas were conceived years before we re-discovered them. May no regrets be ours when we think after they have gone how little we appreciated them when they were still with us!

We offer our poor, imperfect tribute to the memory of one who lived among us so quietly and unostentatiously that few realized how rare and lovable was his character. Only two days before his death he uttered these prophetic words: "I do not care to have any resolutions offered about me after I am gone." It is in accordance with his last wish that I point you to the story of his life as his best eulogy.

NOTE: On March 22, 1887, Dr. Lusk performed the second successful operation of Cæsarean section in New York City, saving the lives of both mother and child, the first having been done in the year 1838. There had been in this country, prior to this time, but one other case where the mother as well as the child had survived (Dr. H. F. Biggar, Cleveland, Ohio, Dec., 1886). In reporting (in 1888) three successful cases performed by himself within little more than a year, Dr. Lusk writes: ". . . it is my highest pleasure to acknowledge my obligations to Sängcr, and to add my tribute to the glory he has justly won."

IN MEMORIAM.

WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK, A.M., M.D., LL.D.

WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK was born in Norwich, Conn., on May 23d, 1838. He entered Yale in 1855, but left college at the end of the year. From 1858 to 1861 he studied medicine in Berlin and Heidelberg, finally taking his degree in medicine from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1864. At the beginning of the Civil War he returned to this country and entered the Federal army as a private in a New York regiment, passing through the ranks of lieutenant and captain to that of assistant adjutant-general. After his graduation in medicine he again went to Europe for eighteen months of further study at Paris, Vienna, Edinburgh, and Prague. He received the honorary degree of A.M. from Yale in 1877 and of LL.D. from the same university in 1893. On his return from Europe in 1868 he was appointed professor of physiology in the Long Island College Hospital, a position which he held until 1871. During 1870 and 1871 he was also lecturer on physiology in the Harvard

Medical School. From 1871 until his death he was professor of obstetrics, gynecology, diseases of infants, and clinical midwifery at Bellevue, and seven years ago, after the death of Isaac E. Taylor, he became its president. At the time of his death he was a visiting gynecologist to Bellevue and St. Vincent's Hospitals, and consulting surgeon to the New York Maternity Hospital, the Skin and Cancer Hospital, and the New York Foundling Asylum. He was an ex-president of the New York State Medical Association, the American Gynecological Society, and the New York Obstetrical Society; a corresponding fellow of the Edinburgh and London Obstetrical Societies; and one of the founders of the International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology. For two and a half years he was editor of the New York *Medical Journal*, being succeeded by the late James B. Hunter. His treatise on "The Science and Art of Midwifery," the great merit of which was quickly recognized by the profession, was his crowning work.

Tall, slight in frame, active, with a pleasing, mobile face, a musical voice, somewhat diffident with strangers, genial and warm-hearted, frank almost to bluntness, he possessed a rare fascination of manner and person that made him deservedly popular. As a teacher he had few equals; as a surgeon he was careful, judicious, and pronouncedly conservative.

Dr. Lusk was twice married and twice a widower; he leaves two sons and three daughters. The elder son is professor of physiology at Yale; and the younger, chief of the surgical clinic at Bellevue.

MEMORIALS OF
WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK, M.D., LL.D.

*Captain, Assistant Adjutant-General, United States Volunteers,
1861-1863*

WILLIAM T. LUSK

[Editorial from The Brooklyn Eagle, written by Harry S. Kingsley.]

THE sudden death of Dr. William T. Lusk of New York by apoplexy, is a decided loss to the medical profession, a distinct weakening of the ranks of good citizenship, a lamentable wounding of the hearts of not a few kindred and of many more friends, and a pathetic example of the self-sacrificing spirit of the best members of the calling which Dr. Lusk both strengthened and adorned. He wore himself down by faithful and earnest work as a physician and a surgeon, and by unrewarded and noble effort as a medical instructor. Although warned by the monitions of decreasing vigor to be generous to his own constitution and to give to himself that right of rest and recreation which he had grandly earned, he withstood the suggestion out of a sense of moral and professional duty to which he fell a veritable martyr.

His was an admirable career, for it was lived for others. His was a benign scholarship, for it was acquired and spent in service for the race. His was a noble energy, because it went out to heal, to save and to comfort. His was a magnificent union of character and of capacity,

of genius and of experience, for it was devoted to the reduction of pain, to the abatement of ills and to the preservation of life. Of him it can be said reverently that he saved others and himself he would not save. The Great Physician, the title by which the Founder of Christianity is so often and so tenderly defined, is served in this world by thousands in His image who grandly work in His spirit. Few of His followers ever served Him, in serving humanity, better than did William T. Lusk, and he who would not permit to himself the respite which he should have taken here, has gone to a waiting reward where sickness and sorrow, which he did so much to alleviate and to diminish, are unknown.

MEMORIAL NOTICE OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK,
August 2d, 1897.

At a stated meeting of this Commandery held at Delmonico's, corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, the following was adopted as the report of the Committee appointed to draft resolutions relative to Companion Captain William Thompson Lusk, Assistant Adjutant-General, United States Volunteers (Insignia No. 4,913), who died at New York, N. Y., June 12, 1897, aged fifty-nine years.

REPORT

Companion Captain William Thompson Lusk was born in Norwich, Conn., on May 23, 1838, and died in this city, June 12, 1897. As a boy he attended a private military school in New Haven, and entered Yale College in the class of '59, but left at the close of the Freshman year as he was strongly attracted to the study of chemistry and physiology, and there was little opportunity for pursuing these studies except in the regular medical course. He devoted two years to the study of medicine in Heidelberg and one year in Berlin. The War of the Rebellion called him home. Joining the 79th Regiment, New York Volunteers, Infantry, in June, 1861, he took part in the battle of the first Bull Run, though not mustered

into the service. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the same regiment September 19, 1861, with rank from August 3; Captain February 24, 1862, with rank from January 19, 1862. Resigned February 28, 1863, to take command of a regiment being raised in New York City, at the request of Governor Morgan. Before the regiment was recruited he joined the staff of General Daniel Tyler, and was commissioned Assistant Adjutant-General with the rank of Captain June 26, 1863. Resigned September 17, 1863.

While in the service of the United States he took part in the battles of Blackburn's Ford, First Bull Run, Port Royal, Secessionville-on-James Island, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and a multitude of minor engagements.

Coming to New York, he matriculated at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and on his graduation the following year he was valedictorian of his class. He devoted one year more to medical studies in Edinburgh and Paris, Vienna and Prague. In 1866 he settled in New York as assistant to Dr. Barker, and in 1869 was appointed professor in physiology at the Long Island College Hospital. This association continued for two years, when he received an invitation from Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes to lecture on physiology before the Harvard Medical School, and passed the winter of 1871 in Boston lecturing with great success. The chair of obstetrics in the Bellevue School, in New York, having become vacant through the death of Dr. George T. Elliot, the position was offered to and accepted by him, and he also became visiting physician at the Bellevue Hospital.

In 1882 he published his celebrated work "The Science and Art of Midwifery." It had an immediate and im-

mense sale in England and America, and made Dr. Lusk famous, the work passing through four editions and being translated into several languages. Dr. Lusk was for a time editor of the *New York Medical Journal*, and in that and other periodicals published many of his earlier articles.

His personality was a prominent and popular feature of the college (Bellevue) to which he devoted the best years of his medical life, and his genial, unassuming manner endeared him to many friends throughout this country and Europe.

Among the offices held by him were President of the Faculty and Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children in Bellevue Medical College, Consulting Physician to the Maternity Hospital and to the Foundling Asylum, Visiting Physician to the Emergency Hospital, Gynecologist to the Bellevue and St. Vincent's Hospitals, Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh and London Obstetrical Societies, Corresponding Fellow of the Obstetrical Societies of Paris and Leipsic and the Paris Academy of Medicine, President of the American Gynecological Society, President of the New York State Medical Association, and Vice-President of the New York Obstetrical Society.

He joined this Commandery October 5, 1886, and George Washington Post, No. 103, Dept. New York, G. A. R., March 17, 1887.

This committee has the honor to submit the following resolution, and respectfully recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the New York Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States receives the notice of the death of Dr. William Thompson Lusk with unfeigned regret, and with a thorough realization of the

loss to the medical profession, to the community, and to this Commandery.

EDWARD HAIGHT, <i>Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, late United States Army.</i>	}	<i>Committee.</i>
ANDREW D. BAIRD, <i>Major, United States Volunteers.</i>		
ROBERT GAIR, <i>Capt., United States Volunteers.</i>		

By order of

MAJOR-GENERAL GRENVILLE M. DODGE,
United States Volunteers, Commander.

A. NOEL BLAKEMAN,
*Acting Assistant Paymaster, late United States
Navy, Recorder.*

ADDRESS IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK, M.D., LL.D.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, NOV. 18,
1897, BY DR. A. ALEXANDER SMITH

DR. WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK was born May 23, 1838, at Norwich, Connecticut. He spent his boyhood days at Norwich, attending the Rev. Albert Spooner's school with a view to preparation for Yale College. His uncle examined him in Latin, and told him that although well taught it was by the old method; and that if he tried to enter Yale College on that preparation he would be rejected. Accordingly leaving Norwich in the winter of 1853-54, he attended Anthon's Grammar School in Murray Street, New York City, residing in the family of Dr. and Mrs. Fordyce Barker, to the latter of whom he was related by marriage.

The winter of 1854-55 he was sent by his mother to Russell's Military School in New Haven, because of "the great advantage he will derive from thorough physical training in the gymnasium."

In 1855 he entered the Freshman class at Yale College, but remained only one year, leaving college because of difficulty with his eyes. Later, in 1872, he was enrolled with his class by the action of the Corporation, and then received an honorary degree of A.M. Later still, in 1894, Yale conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D.

For one year after leaving college he engaged in business, but his eyes continuing to trouble him, and having

no liking for business, in 1858 he went abroad to consult a distinguished oculist, Dr. Monoyer, at Geneva. He had become much interested, even in boyhood, in the study of chemistry and physiology, and after a short stay in Geneva, he went to Heidelberg and began the study of medicine, his interest in chemistry and physiology leading to such decision.

He remained in Heidelberg two years, and one year in Berlin, coming home to America in 1861 to enter the army. Governor Buckingham of Connecticut offered him a position on his staff, but the young man wishing assured active and immediate service, enlisted as a private in the 79th Highlanders, New York Volunteers. His wish was soon gratified, for joining the regiment in June, 1861, he took part in the battle of the First Bull Run, though not yet mustered into service. At this battle he was one of a group who carried the dead body of Colonel Cameron of the 79th Highlanders off the field, it being said of him on this occasion, that he walked backward from the enemy so that he might not be shot in the back if a bullet should strike him.

He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 79th Regiment, September 19, 1861, with rank from August 3. He was commissioned Captain February 24, 1862, with rank from January 19. He resigned February 28, 1863, at the request of Governor Morgan, to take command of a regiment then recruiting in New York City. Before the regiment was filled he joined the staff of General Daniel Tyler, and was commissioned Assistant Adjutant-General with rank of Captain, June 26.

While in the service of the United States, he took part in the battles of Blackburn's Ford, First Bull Run, Port Royal, Secessionville-on-James Island, Second Bull Run,

Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and many minor engagements.

Of the battle of Manassas he writes: "I made the charge armed with a ram-rod which I had picked up on my way thither. I acknowledge that I found the work hotter than I anticipated."

General Isaac I. Stevens in his official report of the battle of James Island, South Carolina, in June, 1862, writes: "My Assistant Adjutant-General was in all parts of the field carrying my orders and bringing me information, to the great exposure of his life, as was Aid, Captain William T. Lusk."

And at the battle of Antietam, in September, 1862, as Acting Assistant Adjutant-General of Colonel Christ's brigade, his name is recorded as among those mentioned for "gallant and meritorious conduct in the field, and for efficiency in their departments."

He served as a staff officer on General Isaac I. Stevens's Staff for a considerable period of time preceding the latter's death in the summer of 1862.

During the draft riots in New York City, in 1863, Captain Lusk commanded two companies of troops, and was stationed at Eighth Avenue and Twenty-Third Street.

During his service in the army he had two horses shot under him, once had his belt shot off, and saw his 79th Highlander Regiment of one thousand men reduced to two hundred and thirty in number, yet himself never received a scratch.

He resigned September 17, 1863, when his troops were sent into Delaware and put on the inactive list. After his resignation he came to New York and completed his medical course at the Bellevue Hospital Medical

College, graduating in 1864 (March 3), and was valedictorian of his class.

He went abroad in May, 1864, for further study, spending four months in Edinburgh with Sir James Y. Simpson; six months in Paris, four months in Vienna with Carl Braun, and two months in Prague with Seifert.

On his return from Europe in 1865, he went to reside in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he became associated with Dr. Robert Hubbard from whom he claimed to have learned much of the art of how to practise medicine.

In 1866 he came to New York and became associated with Dr. Fordyce Barker, which association continued until 1873.

In 1869 he was made "Professor of Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy" in the Long Island College Hospital. This position he held until 1871.

In the winter of 1870-71, at the request of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, he delivered a course of lectures on physiology at the Harvard Medical School.* This course was very successful and he was led to expect an immediate appointment to the chair. There was, however, a little delay, during which time he was offered the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, made vacant by the death of Dr. George T. Elliot. This latter he accepted at once, and a few hours later came the offer from Harvard, which, of course, was declined. Through this incident New York became his permanent residence instead of Boston.

He held the chair at Bellevue Hospital Medical Col-

*Dr. Lusk was the first lecturer on physiology at the Harvard Medical School, who gave a course which was accompanied by experimental demonstrations.

lege from April 4, 1871, up to the time of his death, June 12, 1897.

In 1870 he was appointed Visiting Physician to the Nursery and Childs' Hospital.

In 1871 he was appointed Obstetric Surgeon to Bellevue Hospital.

From 1871 to 1873 he was co-editor with Dr. James B. Hunter, of the *New York Medical Journal*.

From 1889 to 1897 he was President of the Faculty of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Other positions and titles he held or had held were: Consulting Physician to the Maternity Hospital and to the Foundling Asylum; Consulting Obstetrician to the Society of the Lying-in Hospital of the City of New York; Visiting Obstetrician to the Emergency Hospital; Gynecological Surgeon to St. Vincent's Hospital; President of the American Gynecological Society; Vice-President of the New York Obstetrical Society; President of the New York State Medical Association; Honorary President of the Obstetrical Section at the Berlin Medical Congress; Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh and London Obstetrical Societies; Corresponding Fellow of the Obstetrical Societies of Paris and Leipsic; Corresponding Fellow of the Paris Academy of Medicine.

He was also a member of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States with title of Captain, Assistant Adjutant-General, United States Volunteers.

Dr. Lusk was the author of many papers on various medical subjects, chiefly on obstetrics and gynecology. He evinced his interest and training in physiology by occasional contributions on that subject. A paper on the "Histological Doctrines of Robin," a paper on "Uræmia, a Common Cause of Death in Uterine Cancer,"

and still another on "Origin of Diabetes with Some New Experiments Regarding the Glycogenic Function of the Liver," all attest this, and were published in the *New York Medical Journal* during the time he was one of the editors.

A paper entitled: "Nature, Causes and Prevention of Puerperal Fever," read before the International Medical Congress in 1876, in Philadelphia, was one of the first in support of the germ theory of disease, which then created considerable interest. When Koch's paper appeared in 1882 on the isolation of the tubercle bacillus, Dr. Lusk accepted its conclusions enthusiastically, regarding such conclusions as offering the only satisfactory scientific explanation of the origin and spread not only of tuberculosis, but also of many other diseases.

The first edition of his monumental work "The Science and Art of Midwifery," appeared in 1882, and has gone through four editions. The last edition, published in 1892, Dr. Lusk regarded as practically a new book, it having been largely rewritten. In 1895 he appended a chapter on symphysiotomy. It was his intention during the summer of 1897 to revise the book again and issue a fifth edition.

The work has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, and Arabic.

When the book was about to be issued, the plan of it was submitted to an eminent obstetrician of New York, whose opinion was highly valued by both author and publisher, and whose criticism was that it would certainly fail of success unless the plan were changed. Dr. Lusk refused to change the plan and said: "It must go before the profession on its merits without such change."

A few months after it was published, the writer of this

address asked him as to the sale of it. His response was quite characteristic of his well known modesty: "As well, quite as well probably as it deserves, there are still four hundred copies unsold. I am desirous of issuing a second, and, as I think, a much improved edition." Within a few days on meeting him again, he said: "The second edition must come out at once; the publishers have just received an order from London for nine hundred copies."

This work added greatly to his reputation both at home and abroad. While its trend is decidedly German, the clinical aspect of it is the result of New York practice.

Dr. Lusk married May 4, 1864, Miss Mary Hartwell Chittenden, daughter of Mr. S. B. Chittenden, of Brooklyn. She died in 1871. Of this marriage there were born five children, one of whom died in infancy. Two daughters and two sons survive. One son, Graham, is Professor of Physiology in the Medical Department of Yale University, and the other, William C., is a practicing physician in this city.

He married again in 1876, Mrs. Matilda Thorn (née Myer), who died in 1892. Of this marriage a daughter survives.

Dr. Lusk's eminence as an author, a teacher, and a practitioner, made his name well known. His charming personality and his genial, hearty manner brought him many friends. Modest as to his own attainments, he was ever ready and cordial in his praise of the work of others. He was a loyal friend and a generous antagonist. He was sometimes impulsive but always just and magnanimous. He was sincere, and unselfishly devoted to duty; qualities which always command respect and admiration. No efforts were too great for him when suffering called for his services; indeed he often worked for others to

the detriment of his own health. He was ever ready to take responsibility when necessary, but he was always conservative in his judgment. With his colleagues in college work, he was always the affectionate and warm-hearted co-laborer, and intensely interested in it.

He was the counsellor and friend to young men. Well might be applied to him the sentiment he expressed in the dedication of the first edition of his book, to Dr. Fordyce Barker, "Generosity toward the younger members of the profession."

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK, M.D.¹

BY AUSTIN FLINT, M.D., OF NEW YORK COUNTY

WILLIAM THOMPSON LUSK was born May 23, 1838, and died June 12, 1897.

The death of a truly great and good physician, at the zenith of his fame and in the full development of his powers, is indeed a loss. On June 12, I saw Dr. Lusk, in full vigor and health, at work in his private hospital. An hour later, his gentle spirit had passed away, and his useful and laborious life was ended.

From the time of his graduation in medicine in 1864 to the hour of his death, he had devoted his best energies to the study and advancement of the science of medicine. The history of his professional life has been written by himself. The thousands of physicians who had the benefit of his instruction will long hold him in grateful remembrance; and the public institutions with which he was connected will long feel the influence of his wise counsels and faithful and disinterested work. His associates and personal friends may well say, "we shall not look upon his like again." The honors which he received at home and abroad engendered no feeling of envy in the hearts of his friends and professional associates, but were regarded as merited recognition of his valuable services to science and humanity. His sturdy honesty of purpose, with his delicate sense of honor and exquisite gentleness

¹ Read at a meeting of the New York County Medical Association, Oct. 18, 1897.

of character and manner, impressed all with whom he came in contact; and his friends, as well as he himself, were as much astonished as grieved at any evidences of antagonism or ill-will, which few positive and fearless characters are fortunate enough to escape.

The memory of Dr. Lusk should be peculiarly dear to the Fellows of this Association. When it was deemed wise by certain of us, in the interests of the whole profession, to organize the State Medical Association in 1884, Dr. Lusk was one of its Founders. In the same year, he participated in the foundation of the County Association, and signed the articles of incorporation in 1890. He was President of the State Association in 1889 and contributed largely to its scientific proceedings as well as to the work of the County Association. In all discussions and controversies within the profession, when necessary, Dr. Lusk had the courage of his convictions, but without malice and with charity for all. He readily forgave every slight or injury, fancied or real.

With Dr. Lusk's brilliant public career since 1864, I am entirely familiar, and the life of his early manhood is consistent with the later character we knew and admired. Having passed the three years previous to 1861 in the study of medicine and the allied sciences in Heidelberg and Berlin, his patriotism recalled him in the hour of the nation's peril, to enlist as a private in the 79th Highlanders, New York Volunteers, in 1861. He served as private, second lieutenant, captain, and assistant adjutant-general until late in 1863, and participated in many important engagements. I made his acquaintance when he was in command of a detachment in Gramercy Park during the draft riots of 1863. In 1863-64, he completed his medical education and was graduated at

the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. After graduation, he studied in Edinburgh, Paris, Vienna, and Prague. He practiced medicine one year in Bridgeport, Conn., in connection with Dr. Hubbard. In 1866, he became a permanent resident of the city of New York. In 1867, he became my pupil and prepared himself to teach physiology, occupying the Chair of Physiology in the Long Island College Hospital, from 1868 to 1871. In the year 1870-71, he lectured on physiology in the Harvard Medical School, and at the close of that session, he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, which professorship he filled until the time of his death. In 1889, he was elected President of the Faculty.

With all his great acquirements, Dr. Lusk was modest even to the point of diffidence. It may be said, perhaps, that this quality was so marked that the value of his instruction was not at first fully appreciated, but it was not long before he assumed great prominence as a public teacher. The same quality influenced the early part of his literary career. Although he had ably edited the *New York Medical Journal*, in connection with Dr. James B. Hunter, from 1871 to 1873, and before writing his book on "Midwifery" had published many valuable papers, he long hesitated to attempt the preparation of a systematic treatise. I urged him to write a text-book on obstetrics, with a persistence and insistence that prevailed at the end of two years. In 1881, he published his great work on the "Science and Art of Midwifery." This work immediately took its place as the best text-book on the subject in the English language. He labored on it faithfully to the time of his death, and improved and extended it in subsequent editions. It has had four

American editions and has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, and Arabic.

The publication of this book, particularly of the later editions, marked the culmination of the author's fame as a teacher and writer. Honors were heaped upon him. He received the degree of LL.D. from Yale University; he was elected Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh and London Obstetrical Societies; Corresponding Fellow of the Obstetrical Societies of Paris and Leipsic; Corresponding Fellow of the Paris Academy of Medicine, etc. He was no less famous as a practitioner and was consulted largely in the city of New York and elsewhere. His frequent visits abroad, where he often read papers before learned societies, made his foreign friends acquainted with his charming personality. He was taken away in the height of his fame and prosperity.

No eulogy of mine can add to the nobly earned and well deserved reputation of Dr. Lusk; but I esteem it a precious privilege to pay this tribute to his memory which lives in the hearts of his thousands of pupils and tens of thousands of readers. He was a true and reliable friend and had no enmities, a most accomplished physician, an original thinker and observer, a laborious and successful investigator and a gentleman in the highest sense of the word.

SERIES OF EMINENT LIVING GYNECOLOGISTS AND OBSTETRICIANS OF AMERICA.

WILLIAM T. LUSK, A.M., M.D.,

Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Consulting Physician Maternity Hospital; Visiting Physician Emergency Hospital and Catholic Foundling Asylum; Gynecologist to Bellevue Hospital and to St. Vincent's Hospital; Hon. Fellow Edinburgh Obstetrical Society; Cor. Fellow Obstetrical Societies of London, Paris, Leipsic, and of the Academy of Medicine, Paris.

No physician now living stands higher as an obstetrician than the present subject of this series. Like the majority of New York's most eminent medical men, he had the stimulus of a stranger to spur him to success.

He was born in Norwich, Conn., May 23, 1838. While still a boy, he attended in New Haven a private military school, which training stood him in good stead subsequently, as we shall see. He entered Yale College in 1855, though he spent but one term in that institution. Fifteen years later, however, Yale conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. Being much attracted to the study of chemistry and physiology and there being little opportunity at that time to pursue these studies apart from a professional course, he determined to study medicine solely with this object in view. It is a curious commentary on the theory of selection that the majority of successful men in every branch of work, as in this instance, do not, as a fact, adopt a special career from any distinct love or evident fitness therefor. It is, after all, conscientiousness and the strength of purpose to do well that upon which the hand is placed, whatever it be, which brings about the most praiseworthy accomplishment.

Dr. Lusk devoted two years to the study of medicine in Heidelberg and one year in Berlin. Our civil war breaking out at this time, he hurried home that he might perform the first duty of a citizen. He entered the United States Army as a volunteer private, but shortly after the first battle of Bull Run was elected (as was then the custom) to a 2d lieutenancy in the regiment to which he was attached. After serving a year he became a general staff officer and was thereafter steadily promoted. He took part in nearly all the great battles of the first years of the war, when, being transferred finally to Delaware and little active service, he resigned with the rank of assistant adjutant-general. Returning to New York, he matriculated at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College and graduated in the following year. Eighteen months more were devoted to medical study in Edinburgh and Paris, with Carl Braun in Vienna, and with Seifert in Prague. Most of this time he spent in

the last-named cities, and it is to Seifert he attributes his special interest in obstetrics. Upon his return he became assistant to Dr. Barker, already widely known, and settled permanently in New York. This association continued for about six years, when, in 1871, he received an invitation from Dr. Oliver Wendel Holmes to lecture on physiology before the Harvard Medical School. He spent that winter in Boston, continuing his lectures with great success. The theories of Professor Dalton were then new and were introduced in his course by Dr. Lusk. So successful, indeed, was he, that he might, perhaps, have spent his life as a Harvard professor of physiology instead of becoming a famous obstetrician in New York, had not an offer of the Chair of Obstetrics in the Bellevue School, made vacant by the death of Dr. Elliot, brought him again to us. He became not long afterwards, also, attending physician to the Bellevue Hospital.

In 1881, feeling that he was expected, from his position as teacher in a big medical school, to put into concrete form the theories and practice he presented to his students in his lectures, he wrote his now celebrated work, "The Science and Art of Obstetrics." As an index to the character of the man, it is interesting to know that the author expected merely a moderate sale of his book among those who knew him and among his own students. In fact it was for the use especially of the latter that the work was undertaken. A further interesting fact, as evidence of the very little insight into real though untried merit even the best of us possess, is that the publishers of this book were informed, before it went to press, by one of the then most prominent obstetricians and himself a personal friend of Dr. Lusk, that in its original form the work could find no sale whatever. He added, that "if it were modelled upon that of the younger Barnes, it might, perhaps, have a sale." Neither the author nor the publishers, happily, heeded this advice, but published the work as it stood. It had an immediate and immense sale, and made Dr. Lusk famous.

Without drawing invidious comparisons, we think we can say that no book on obstetrics written by an American stands as high in the popular estimation of the profession. It has already passed through three large editions, and we are informed that a fourth edition will appear within a few weeks. It has been translated into French and Spanish, and an Italian translation, already partially complete, but awaits the forthcoming edition to be finished and put on the market.

We are glad to be able to record that Dr. Lusk was for a time editor of the *New York Medical Journal*, and in this and in other periodicals he published many of his earlier articles. Among these we notice "Histological Doctrines of Robin." The author went to Paris at the request of Dr. Barker, who was especially interested, that he might study this subject at its source. As showing his physiological bent: "Uræmia a Common Cause of Death in Uterine Cancer," and "Origin of Diabetes, with Some New Experiments Regarding the Glycogenic Function of the Liver." Among his best-known articles on obstetrics are: "Inquiry into the Pathology of Uterine Cancer;" "Irregular Uterine Action During Labor;" "Clinical Reports of the Lying-in Service at Bellevue Hospital for the Year 1873," and "Cephalotribe and Cephalotripsy." In 1876, he read a paper on the "Nature, Causes and Prevention of Puerperal Fever" before the International Medical Congress, which created wide-spread interest. In 1877, he also presented a paper before the American Gynæcological Society, of great practical bearing, on the "Necessity for Caution in the Employment of Chloroform During Labor."

He has written many other and more recent papers besides these enumerated, but they are all more or less familiar to our readers.

Dr. Lusk has long been a prominent and popular feature of the college to which he has devoted the best years of his medical life, and his genial, gentlemanly and unassuming manner have endeared him to many friends and admirers throughout this country and in Europe, but especially in the city of his adoption.

His most evident characteristic is modesty in appreciation of his own attainments—a quality justly considered common only to truly great men.

With this sketch we present to our readers a portrait taken from a very recent photograph of Dr. Lusk.

